

## **2008 ACNP State Affiliate Award**

The 2008 ACNP State Affiliate Award was presented to the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners (PCNP) on November 1 at the ACNP National Clinical Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in recognition of their work in negotiating passage of House Bill 1253, now Act 48 in Pennsylvania; for their involvement in shaping House Bill 700, the Governor of Pennsylvania's comprehensive initiative for health reform; and for their ongoing initiatives to maximize the practice of nurse practitioners.

The PCNP prepared a White Paper describing both obstacles and solutions to the issues surrounding the many barriers to full scope of practice for NPs and restrictions for patients to full access to care. The White Paper was used as the architectural skeleton for the discussions of House Bill 1253, and after long hours of negotiation, much debate among NP peers and physician colleagues, very little money, but lots of perseverance, the bill was passed on September 19, 2007.

This bill gives NPs the authority to order home health and hospice care, except as limited by Federal Medicare law; perform disability assessment for temporary assistance to needy families; issue homebound school certifications; provides for full recognition of NPs as primary care providers by third-party payers, as well as has other elements. The PCNP continues to work with the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Reform as they write the regulations that will follow the statutory changes.